



## GREATER PALM BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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May 23, 2011

Federal Communications Commission

445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners,

As a member of the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce, I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile for small businesses across the country.

For centuries, small businesses have been the driving force behind America's impressive and enduring economic growth. Recently, however, the playing field amongst small businesses in varying communities is unequal. Following this merger, high-speed broadband will reach a total of 97% of Americans giving all small businesses equal access regardless of geographic location. This kind of equality is crucial to small business looking to expand their opportunities locally and beyond.

Currently, too many underserved communities across the country are frequently left out when technological advances sweep the nation. Whether they are in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, in this day and age all communities should be treated equally. This merger is a positive step in the right direction in terms of leveling the playing field amongst all American communities and businesses.

With this transaction, a corporation is doing something that will do nothing but good for every American community. Please do not stand in their way by blocking this merger.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion,

*Vicki Northrup*

Victoria Northrup

President & CEO

Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce